



The Pipeline

COA, safeguards for the elderly top cabinet's legislative agenda

By Natalie Ciresi, CFC Communications

The Cabinet for Families and Children is asking the General Assembly to lock in its national accreditation and strengthen safeguards for the elderly. Senate Bill 36 and House Bill 242 could be the keys that lock these hopes down.

Sen. Julie Rose Denton, R-Louisville, is sponsoring SB 36, which requires the Cabinet to maintain compliance with the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services (COA). Kentucky is one of only two accredited states, and the only one that voluntarily earned accreditation for all its protection and permanency services.

A law requiring the Cabinet to maintain COA compliance would protect it against pressure to lower standards, provide a solid risk-management strategy, reduce the likelihood of federal penalties that have been imposed on other states and increase accountability to consumers and others.

The annual fee charged by the Council on Accreditation to its members is \$250.

SB 36 was assigned to the Health and Welfare committee on Jan. 9.

Rep. Jimmie Lee, D-Elizabethtown, is sponsoring HB 242, which clarifies the roles the Cabinet for Families and Children and other agencies must play in protecting the elderly from abuse.

"This is a job that goes beyond just one cabinet's abilities, just like child abuse," said Anne Flynn, a staff assistant in the Cabinet Secretary's Office. "It requires multiple responses, and House Bill 242 will clear up any gray areas about what agency is to do what job."

When informed of elder abuse, the Cabinet would be required to determine whether maltreatment occurred, assess

the need for protective services, provide the needed services upon request or by court order, initiate court action if abuse occurred and inform the other investigative agencies about the case so further action could be taken against the perpetrator.

"The Cabinet has no authority over the perpetrator," said Flynn. "We are here for the victim and to attend to their needs. We're about prevention and intervention."

HB 242 also provides a statutory mandate for the state Commission on Elder Abuse, which was established by executive order in July 2002.

The bill has not yet been assigned to a committee.

The Cabinet also wants the legislature to formalize a housekeeping move that Secretary Viola Miller estimates could save \$400,000 a year.

Senate Bill 43 abolishes the Office of Performance Enhancement and transfers its duties to the Office of the Ombudsman. Sen. Jack Westwood, R-Erlanger, is sponsoring the bill, which has not been assigned to a committee.

For more information see the Kentucky Legislative Home Page at www.lrc.state.ky.us.

The ABCs of EAL



"The ABCs of EAL" features tips that can help us improve our relationships with coworkers and our service to the families of Kentucky.

This week: R

Well-defined **roles** are essential for high-performing teams. Members need to understand their roles on the team and how they will interact with others. This will reduce confusion, duplication of effort, misunderstandings and conflict.

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CFC gets award for support of Big Brothers Big Sisters

By Anya Armes Weber

The Cabinet received an award this week for raising more than any state agency for Big Brothers Big Sisters last year.

During last March's Bowl for Kids' Sake, CFC staff contributed \$7609.80, Cabinet BFKS Coordinator Eboney Mayewski said.

Mayewski and the Cabinet were also recognized for having 36 teams -- a record high -- participate in the event. Carolyn Osborne of the Division of Child Support raised the most in pledges at \$255.

BFKS raises money for Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Bluegrass, which serves Franklin and surrounding counties. The program matches adults with children ages 6-13 who are from single-parent homes.

Office coordinators soon will be recruiting team members to bowl this March. Contact Mayewski in the Ombudsman's Office for more information at 564-5497, and look for details in upcoming editions of the Pipeline.

Flex spending account information available



By Anya Armes Weber

Contributors to the 2003 flexible spending health-care and dependent day-care accounts should have recently received letters regarding their new account information.

Fringe Benefits Management Company is the new administrator of these plans.

For more information about FBMC, call (800) 342-8017 from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. on weekdays. Or log onto the FBMC Web site at <http://www.fbmc-benefits.com/>

CFS Forum open to Quality Central staff, community partners

By Anya Armes Weber

Quality Central staff who want to learn more about Comprehensive Family Services are in good company. This month's live discussion on the CFS Forum was the most popular yet.

Staff exchanged ideas on "keeping the showcase feeling alive" after the lively celebrations last year. If you couldn't attend, read the comments at <http://cfc.state.ky.us/cfsforum/>.

Word is catching on among both regional and central office staff about the forum, but it's up to staff to invite another important group to the talks: community partners.

Please pass this Web site along to the providers you work with every day.

New users must register to post a comment or question. Registering is easy, just submit your username, e-mail address and a password. Anyone can log on the site without registering to read comments.

Planned discussions are at 2 p.m. (Eastern time) on the third Monday of each month.

The next chat is Feb. 17, and the post-Valentine's Day topic is "customer follow-up." Cabinet staff put their hearts into helping their customers. After the families' initial goals are accomplished, what are the keys to successful follow-up meetings?

Anytime is a good time to post an idea or question to the forum. A new thread will soon be added for CFS success stories.

QC staff who have worked in the field and those who frequently work with field staff and providers may have good ideas to contribute to the CFS discussions.

Log on soon to share your ideas.



Redesign makes Training web site more user-friendly

The Division of Professional Development and Training has been in the process of redesigning their web site to ensure that it complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and is easily accessible by all users. They are also working to make it easier for staff, supervisors, and members of the training system to find the information they need. The new design of the site features areas for training participants and supervisors, training system staff, and general information about training. For example, if employees click on the "Participants and Supervisors" section, they should be able to find all of the resources they need quickly and easily. There are links on the front page to access the quarterly training calendar, Online Registration System (ORS), Training Bulletin Boards, BlackBoard, and several curriculum web pages. Training staff deem these areas to be the most crucial to CFC staff.

The Division of Professional Development and Training looks forward to feedback and suggestions from staff about the new web site design. Employees are welcome to post comments on the Training Bulletin Boards, or to e-mail comments to <mailto:CFCTraining@mail.state.ky.us>.

The new design will be available at <http://www.cfctraining.uky.edu> around Feb. 1. It should also be accessible from the new Intranet that is being launched around the same time. If staff have the Training web site in their Internet Explorer Favorites or a shortcut on their desktop, they should find the new design after Feb. 1.